

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
12-CVS-03029

THE INSTITUTE FOR SOUTHERN STUDIES,
INC., d/b/a CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS;
GANNETT PACIFIC CORPORATION d/b/a
ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES; GREEN LINE
MEDIA, INC. d/b/a MOUNTAIN XPRESS;
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC
RADIO, INC. d/b/a WCQS; and SINCLAIR
BROADCAST GROUP, INC., d/b/a WLOS-TV

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF ASHEVILLE and BUNCOMBE
COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,

Defendants

AFFIDAVIT OF
MICHAEL WRIGHT

Having been duly sworn, Michael Wright testifies as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and suffer from no known disability. The statements in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge.

2. I am the managing member of Blueline Systems & Services, LLC ("Blueline"), a position I have held since November 30, 2007. I was Blueline's managing member in June 2011, when Blueline signed a Service Contract with the City of Asheville providing that Blueline would conduct an inventory of the Asheville Police Department's evidence room.

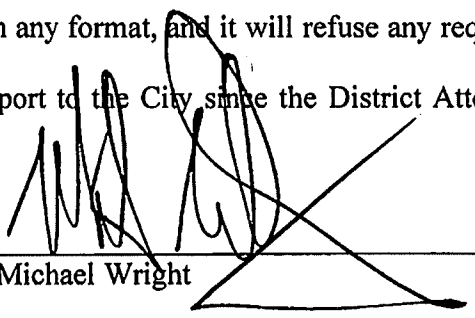
3. I personally oversaw Blueline's negotiation of the Service Contract with Asheville, and I have personally overseen Blueline's performance of the evidence room inventory. I have read the Service Contract between Blueline and Asheville and have personal knowledge of what that contract says.

4. In January 2012, under my supervision and per my instructions, Blueline provided the District Attorney for the 28th Prosecutorial District with a report on Blueline's inventory of the Asheville Police Department's evidence room. Because I am Blueline's managing member and have personally overseen the evidence room inventory, I personally know that Blueline has never provided a copy of the inventory report to the City of Asheville or to any City officials or employees. I did make a July 24, 2012 presentation to the City Council about the inventory of the evidence room, but my presentation was only about Blueline's methodology for the inventory and about the current state of the evidence room. My presentation to the City Council did not go into the specific findings of the inventory of the evidence room.

5. As Blueline interprets its Service Contract with the City, the City can receive a copy of the inventory report only after the District Attorney for the 28th Prosecutorial District finishes reviewing the report (which has approximately 15 volumes which range in thickness from 1 to 3 inches each) and makes redactions which, in his sole judgment, he deems necessary and proper to prevent the disclosure of information in the report from jeopardizing criminal investigations or prosecutions. If the District Attorney determines that any information in the report can be released without likely jeopardizing investigations or prosecutions, Blueline will follow the District Attorney's instructions in order to prepare and provide to the City a redacted version of the report that discloses only information that the District Attorney has concluded can be disclosed without jeopardizing criminal investigations or prosecutions.

6. The District Attorney has not yet informed Blueline that he has finished reviewing the inventory report or that he has determined whether any information in the report can be disclosed to the City without jeopardizing criminal investigations or prosecutions. Therefore, under Blueline's Service Contract with the City, Blueline cannot release the report to the City at

this time. Blueline is not required to release any part of the report to the City until the District Attorney has completed his review and determined which information can be released, and in what format. Until that time, Blueline is not required by the terms of its Service Contract with the City to provide the City with the report in any format, and it will refuse any request from the City to provide any part of the inventory report to the City since the District Attorney has not authorized its release.



Michael Wright

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF Buncombe)

I, Tara Smathers, a Notary Public of Madison County, State of North Carolina certify that **Michael Wright** (the "Signatory"), appeared before me this day and that he, being authorized to do so, acknowledged the execution of the foregoing instrument.

I certify that the Signatory personally appeared before me this day, and

(check one of the following)

☐ (I have personal knowledge of the identity of the Signatory); or

☐ (I have seen satisfactory evidence of the Signatory's identity, by a current state or federal identification with the Signatory's photograph in the form of:

(check one of the following)

☐ a driver's license or

☐ in the form of _____); or

X (a credible witness has sworn to the identity of the Signatory).

The Signatory acknowledged to me that he voluntarily signed the foregoing document for the purpose stated therein and in the capacity indicated.

Witness my hand and official stamp or seal this 30 day of August, 2012.

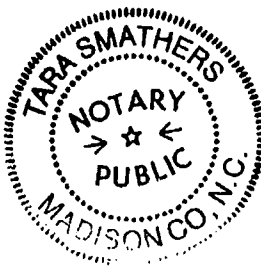
Tara Smathers

Notary Public

Print Name: Tara Smathers

My Commission Expires: 11-11-2014

E [NOTARY SEAL] (MUST BE FULLY LEGIBLE)



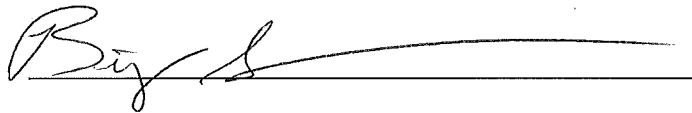
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that today an accurate copy of the foregoing *Affidavit of Michael Wright* was served by facsimile and electronic mail on:

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Attorney for Defendant Buncombe County District Attorneys Office

August 30, 2012.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Payne", is written over a horizontal line.